

B O R O U G H o f W A R E H A M

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the Year
1968

FOREWORD

Health Centre,
Swanage.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Wareham

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my fifth annual report on the state of the public health in the Wareham Borough. This covers the calendar year 1968. Those sections of the report concerning sanitary conditions have been supplied by the Public Health Inspector.

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year.

The estimated population of the Borough at mid 1968, showed an increase of 250 on the estimated population at mid 1967, and an increase of 642 on the Census population of 1961.

The vital statistics of the Borough compare favourably with those for England and Wales as a whole. The comparative rate for live births is nearly double the similar rate for England and Wales. Undue importance cannot be attached to any of the rates as the numbers dealt with are really too small for statistical purposes.

Completion of the Joint Sewage Disposal Works at Keyworth and the diversion of sewage from the Borough to those Works have alleviated the problems of the previous disposal Works, about which my predecessor commented on originally in his annual report for 1945.

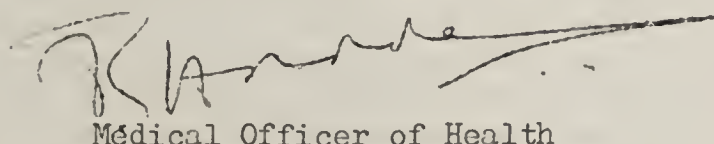
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I am most grateful to Members of the Council and to my fellow officers, especially Mr. J. R. Tanner, for their helpful co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,


Medical Officer of Health

August 1969

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1968

Registrar General's Official Return

Cause of Death	Sex	TOTAL ALL AGES	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks & Under 1 Year	AGE IN YEARS								75 & Over
					1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm - breast	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Leukemia	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Anaemias	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Hypertensive disease	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ischaemic heart disease	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other forms of heart disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cerebrovascular disease	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other diseases of circulatory system	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Pneumonia	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Bronchitis and emphysema	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Congenital anomalies	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	M	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total all causes	M	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	19
	F	44	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	31

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Poole and East Dorset Water Board supply and distribute water throughout the Borough. The Worgret Waterworks which belonged previously to the Council obtains its supply from a shallow well with a high iron content. Its water is pumped to the part of the Borough south of the railway gates and east of Westport House. The rest of the Borough is supplied by "Poole" water from Sturminster Marshall and/or Corfe Mullen. The water from Corfe Mullen is softened but that from Sturminster Marshall is not. Discolourisation of water in parts of the Borough is due to rust deposited in the pipes in the past. In an endeavour to remove these deposits the Board continued washing-out operations on the affected sections of the main. Now that the main has been laid from Gallows Hill to Worgret, the Borough can also be supplied from Briantspuddle.

Source and Treatment Applied

<u>Source</u>	<u>Type of Source</u>	<u>Depth</u>	<u>Treatment Applied</u>
Worgret	Well	30 ft.	Iron removal and pH correction, pressure filtration and chlorination.
Corfe Mullen	Well & Borehole	170 ft.	Softening, rapid gravity filtration, chlorination and post ammoniation.
Sturminster Marshall	Well	280 ft.	Chlorination and post ammoniation.
Briantspuddle	Borehole	250 ft.	Chlorination

Plumbo Solvency

Only the raw water from Worgret had any plumbo-solvency and that was corrected during the iron removal process continuously applied at the pumping station. Worgret pumping station was in use throughout the year and pumped 71 million gallons compared to 43 million gallons in 1967 when the station was only open part of the year.

Bacteriological Examination

Twenty-three samples of the raw water at Worgret were taken by the Board's Inspector; twenty-one were placed in Class 1 of the Ministry of Health's bacteriological classification and the remaining two taken in September were placed in Class 4. The Board's Inspector also took forty-three samples of the distributed water; these were placed in Class 1 after bacteriological examination.

The Public Health Inspector took eighteen samples from consumers taps for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service in Dorchester. All samples were reported to be satisfactory.

CHEMICAL ANALYSES

The following chemical analysis of source of supply in the District has been supplied by the Poole and East Dorset Water Board's Chemist -

Chemical results in milligrammes per litre -

<u>Source</u>	<u>Worgret P/S</u> <u>Lower Pumping</u> <u>Main</u> <u>(Raw)</u>	<u>Worgret</u> <u>Reservoir</u> <u>(Treated)</u>
Reaction, pH value	5.7	6.6
Colour	Yellowish	Sl. Yellowish
Turbidity	Sl. turbid	Clear
Conductivity micromhos/cm ³ at 20°C	175	230
Taste	Pleasant	Pleasant
Odour	Odourless	Odourless
Total dissolved solids (dried at 180°C)	140	205
Residual Chlorine as Cl ₂	-	Absent
Temporary hardness as CaCO ₃ (Carbonate)	22	46
Permanent hardness as CaCO ₃ (Non-carbonate)	32	46
Total hardness as CaCO ₃ (by EDTA)	54	92
Total alkalinity as CaCO ₃	22	46
Free Carbon Dioxide as CO ₂	90	23
Total Iron as Fe	2.55	0.46
Nitrogen in Nitrates	Absent	0.3
Nitrogen in Nitrites	Absent	Absent
Free Ammonia as NH ₃	0.07	0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen as N	0.06	0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia as NH ₃	0.08	0.03
Albuminoid Nitrogen as N	0.07	0.02
Chlorine in Chlorides as Cl	24	29
Sulphates as SO ₄	54 *	68 *
Phosphates as PO ₄	-	-
Copper	-	-
Lead	-	-
Zinc	-	-

(* high figure due to method)

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Joint Sewerage Disposal Works at Sandford came into operation during the year. These are operated by the Wareham Rural District Council and now take all the sewage from the Borough.

The antiquated Works in Sandford Lane which have been overloaded for the past twenty years are no longer used.

The sewage system includes three pumping stations situated at South Bestwall, North Bridge and Northport, with small subsidiary stations at Drax Avenue and Carey Estate. All sewers have been laid to the Northport Estate which is virtually completed. The Northmoor Estate has reached Phase 4; all sewers have been laid for Phases 1 - 3.

No. of dwellings not connected to the sewer	...	11
No. of dwellings with pail closets	...	Nil
No. of dwellings with cesspools/septic tanks	...	11
No. of cesspools/septic tanks closed during the year		Nil
No. of dwellings connected to sewers during the year		108

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Summary of Inspections

Bakehouses	2	Food/Meat inspection	10
Building Regulations	844	Factories	5
Butchers shops	4	Housing Acts	31
Cafes	5	Housing Repairs	951
Caravan sites	4	Housing Capital	127
Sewage disposal Works		Public conveniences	9
and Pumping Stations	53	Public Health Acts	12
Food Premises/ Hygiene Regs.	12	Refuse Collection &	
Pest Control	7	disposal	3
Childrens Playing Areas,		Samples - Water	18
Recreation Ground	32	Samples - Ice cream	11
Civic Amenities Act	3	Offices Shops and	
Allotments	4	Railway Premises	12
Town Walls	3	Surface water drainage	2
		Miscellaneous	341

Total 2505

Statutory and Informal Notices

<u>Notices</u>	<u>No. Served</u>	<u>Complied With</u>	<u>Outstanding</u>
Informal	5	7 (2 from 1967)	Nil
Statutory	Nil	Nil	Nil

Caravan and Camping Sites

There are two caravan sites in the Borough; one is situated on the North Causeway and the lessee is permitted to station up to 44 caravans including 20 residential. The other site is situated off Sandford Lane near the Railway Hotel and is licensed for eight caravans. Both sites are licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. The larger site is provided with a sanitary block drained to a septic tank and filter, no main sewer being available. The smaller site is drained to the public sewer. Both sites are inspected from time to time; there have been no contraventions of the Act.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Council own one "Karrier" Bantam Vehicle and one Gibson compression vehicle. Both vehicles are now showing signs of excessive wear and will have to be replaced. House and trade collections are made. The collection is spread over three days but with the number of dwellings increasing daily on the new estates, some review of methods will be necessary. The Council is now considering the purchase of a larger purpose built vehicle with a continuous loading mechanism which will reduce the number of hauls to the tip and facilitate compaction of the refuse. It is hoped that there will be some reduction of collection time, even within the three days. The service works very well and few complaints are received except that from time to time the collectors report cases of defective and insanitary dustbins. The ultimate remedy of course for this is the paper or polythene sack method of collection where no emptying of refuse takes place, this method will eventually become the general adopted system throughout the country because it is cleaner and lighter when compared with other methods, and because recruitment of labour for refuse collection will become increasingly difficult. The Council still encourage collection of any quantity of house refuse by special collection, if necessary, without charge, simply to discourage illicit dumping on open areas. The refuse is tipped on the adjoining Rural District at a tip managed by a private firm.

During the year the Council obtained planning permission for a site

under the Civic Amenities Act, 1967 for the deposit of refuse. The necessary works to provide the amenity have still to be carried out but may be linked with another project. Although not yet developed the site is being used for the deposit of refuse. It is hoped that this will improve the condition of the Town Walls and other areas in regard to cleanliness.

Street Cleansing

The main streets are cleansed and swept daily and the minor streets as often as possible. This service has been maintained on our present labour force and the work is carried out reasonably well. Some parts of the newer estates will soon be taken over and another look at this problem will be necessary. Litter baskets may be required on some of these although on the whole litter is not a problem except in strategic places.

Town Walls

Despite requests by letter, complaints still come in of rubbish being deposited on these ancient works. Frome Hollow appears to be the part which suffers most. It is hoped that the Civic Amenities Act will reduce this to a minimum, and an effort will be made to mow the grass on the Walls early and regularly, as overgrown conditions are conducive to dumping of refuse. The "Honorary Warden" of the Walls submits frequent reports on conditions and these are helpful for ensuring some control.

Public Conveniences

There is one public convenience in the Borough situated at Howards Lane (male and female). Further progress was made for the provision of a block of toilets at The Quay, tenders were received and a commencement was made at the end of the year. The toilets should be ready by April 1969, when they will be an asset to this part of the Town. Now that Streche Road car park is being used more frequently, a similar service will become necessary at that point,

Swimming Baths

There is one swimming bath in the Borough at the County Modern School for the use of the pupils. Bathing still takes place in the River Frome near the Quay and also in the River Piddle near the North Bridge. Although reports of analyses of samples of these waters have been unsatisfactory in the past, flows in the rivers give high degree of dilution and no evidence of disease has been attributed to swimming in these rivers. The Wareham Swimming Club have now intimated to the Council that they are considering the possibility of the provision of a heated indoor swimming pool, and they have asked the Council if they can assist with the provision of a site.

Smoke Abatement and Clean Air Act, 1956

No action was necessary under this Act.

Petroleum Regulations and Acts.

Eleven Licences are in force for the storage of petroleum spirit. Occasional visits are made to the premises. No complaints were received.

Disinfestation

No complaints were received.

Rodent Control

Nineteen complaints were received during the year of rodent infestation. These were dealt with by the Rodent Officer.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

All milk sold in the Borough is specially designated.

Number of dealers under Milk (Special Designation)
Regulations 1960 10

Milk Sampling

During the year fifteen samples of milk were taken in the Borough by the Food and Drugs Authority for examination; all the samples passed the prescribed tests.

Ice-Cream

Eleven samples were submitted for the methylene blue reductase test in accordance with the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

All samples were placed in Grade I.

Food Inspected and Condemned

Meat at retail shops	...	89 lbs.
Canned meat	...	60 lbs.
Other canned foods	...	70 lbs.
Other foods	...	50 lbs.

There is no slaughterhouse in the Borough.

Food Premises

(1) Number of Food Premises by Type of Business in the Area

Grocers	...	9
Greengrocers	...	5
Butchers	...	4
Bakehouses	...	2
Fish Shops	...	2
Fried Fish Shops	...	2
Sweets and Confectionery	...	6
Cafes and Restaurants	...	7
Licensed premises including hotels		14

(2) Number of Food Premises by Type Registered

Under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955

Manufacture of sausages and preserved foods	...	6
Fish frying premises	...	2
Sale of ice-cream	...	20

(3) Number of Inspections of Registered Food Premises

Premises for manufacture of sausages	...	10
Fish frying premises	...	2
Ice-cream premises	...	16

Inspections of Food Premises, Cafes, etc.

Visits are made from time to time of food premises and on the whole premises were found to be satisfactory. In no cases were formal actions necessary, but two informal notices were served.

Two complaints were received during the year of food not being up to standard, in one case a jar of jam was reported to have been affected with mould, in the other a carton of lagers was reported to be out of condition. Both complaints were investigated and it was found that in both cases the cause was probably due to faulty sealing of containers. These were isolated incidents and no formal action was necessary.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

At the end of the year the following premises were registered --

Offices	...	17
Retail shops	...	49
Wholesale shops/Warehouses		-
Catering establishments		5

All the premises have received a first inspection and 10 visits were made during the year. The following is an analysis of the contraventions -

Cleanliness	...	3
Temperature	...	1
Lighting	...	1
Eating facilities	...	1
Floors, passage & stairs		2
Parts of machinery exposed		1
First aid	...	1
Other matters	...	3

Informal notices were served in respect of the 13 defects.

HOUSING

One hundred and eight dwellings were erected during the year.

Number of houses inspected	...	...	2
Number of house inspections made	...	...	6
Number of informal notices served	...	...	2
Number of informal notices complied with	...	...	2
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	Nil
Number of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	Nil

Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses:-

(a) Demolition Orders made	...	...	Nil
(b) Undertakings accepted for:-			
(i) Closure	...	...	Nil
(ii) Reconditioning	...	...	Nil
(iii) Other action	...	...	Nil

Number of houses included in clearance areas Nil

Overcrowding

One case of statutory overcrowding was reported during the year.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959

Housing Act, 1964

The following Grants were made during the year -

Discretionary Improvement Grants - Nil
Standard Grants in respect of 3 dwellings.
Total improved to date - 143 dwellings.

Housing Applications

Persons residing both in and outside the Borough	...	65
Aged Persons (Borough bungalows)	...	23
		<u>88</u>

Housing Programme

	<u>Completed in 1968</u>	<u>In construction at 31.12.68</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Houses	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bungalows	Nil	Nil	18
Flats	Nil	Nil	Nil

New Houses

Total number erected during 1968	...	108
Number erected with State assistance -		
(a) by Local Authority	...	Nil
(b) by other Bodies or Persons	...	Nil

<u>Houses owned by the Local Authority</u>	<u>Built Pre-War</u>	<u>Built since 1945</u>	<u>Total</u>
Permanent	...	102	208
Prefabricated	...	-	10

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Legislation relating to the notification of infectious diseases has been altered considerably during the year under review. The Public Health (Infectious Jaundice) Regulations 1968, which came into force on 15th June 1968, made infective jaundice notifiable. One case was notified after the Regulations came into force.

The Health Services and Public Health Act 1968, amended the list of notifiable diseases and the following are those which are notified now by Act of Parliament -

Cholera	Relapsing fever	Typhus
Plague	Smallpox	Food Poisoning

The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968, came into force on 1st October 1968. These Regulations consolidated with amendments all previous regulations relating to the notification and prevention of infectious disease except the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

The diseases for which notification is now made by Regulation are -

Acute encephalitis	Diphtheria	Paratyphoid fever
Acute meningitis	Infective jaundice	Scarlet fever
Acute poliomyelitis	Leprosy	Tetanus
Amoebic dysentery	Leptospirosis	Tuberculosis
Anthrax	Malaria	Typhoid fever
Bacillary dysentery	Measles	Whooping cough
	Ophthalmia neonatorum	Yellow fever

The Public Health (Fees for Notification of Infectious Diseases) Order 1968, increase the fee to be paid to a medical practitioner for the notification of an infectious disease.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease in the District continues to remain low. No case of diphtheria, poliomyelitis or enteric fever (typhoid and paratyphoid fevers) was notified during the year.

The absence of cases of diphtheria and acute poliomyelitis can be attributed to the effective immunisation of infants and young children against these diseases. Babies are immunised with diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw) and whooping cough vaccine during the second six months of life. A reinforcing dose against diphtheria and tetanus is given just prior to entry to school at five years, and another reinforcing dose of tetanus vaccine at twelve years old.

The scheme for immunisation against acute poliomyelitis includes all persons up to forty years of age and certain priority groups above this age likely to special risk of infection. This includes persons proceeding to areas which have a high incidence of acute poliomyelitis. Almost all immunisation against poliomyelitis is by mouth with the Sabin vaccine which is a modified live virus. The primary doses are given to babies in the second six months of life at the same time as the triple vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. A reinforcing dose is given on entry to school and again at twelve years old.

Measles vaccine, attenuated live vaccine, became available during 1968, and children in the age group one year to 4 years were immunised first, and then extended up to seven years of age, and later to eleven years. Two cases of measles were notified in the District during the third quarter of the year. It is thought that as no further cases were notified in the fourth quarter that this was due to the effect of the immunising campaign.

Primary vaccination against smallpox for babies is performed between the first and second birthdays, and is now fitted into the immunisation schedule at fifteen months. The multipressure technique is used.

Scarlet fever although a mild disease is still notifiable. Four cases were notified during the year.

No cases of food poisoning occurred during the year.

No case of tuberculosis was notified during the year. There is no doubt that the incidence of tuberculosis has been considerably reduced by the measures that have been taken over the years. All contacts of cases of tuberculosis are investigated to pick up sources of infection and other new cases. There are no longer open sessions for persons to attend the mass radiography unit for chest X-ray, as it has been considered that the number of cases picked up at such sessions do not warrant the time and expense. Instead it has been made much easier for general practitioners to have their patients X-rayed in case of chest infection.

At five years old new school entrants are tested for tuberculosis by the Heaf skin test. Very few positives have been found and no positive child has been found to have active tuberculosis. However, positives at this age does give an index of unsuspected tuberculosis in the community. At thirteen years of age all school children are retested by the Heaf test and if negative offered vaccination against tuberculosis with B.C.G. vaccine

Vaccination and Immunisation Statistics, Wareham Borough 1968

(P = Primary course

R = Reinforcing dose)

Poliomyelitis				Diphtheria		Tetanus		Whooping cough		Smallpox		Measles
Oral		Salk										
P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	
29	73	-	-	24	72	25	78	22	16	25	1	89

Infectious Disease Notification (Corrected) Figures

Disease	1st. Qtr.	2nd. Qtr.	3rd. Qtr.	4th. Qtr.	Total	Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet fever	1	-	3	-	4	-
Whooping cough	2	-	-	-	2	-
Measles	-	-	2	-	2	-
Infective jaundice	-	1	-	-	1	-

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified During 1967

Disease	Total	Age Group									
		0 -	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 -	10 -	15-24	25-44	A.U.
Scarlet fever	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-
Whooping cough	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Infective jaundice	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

Scabies and Verminous Conditions

There were no reports under this heading.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47 (Removal of Persons in Need of Care
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951 and Attention to Suitable Premises)

It was not necessary to take formal action under this section of the Act during the year.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	35	5	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority excluding outworkers premises	-	-	-	-
Total	38	5	-	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which Defects were found				No.of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Re- medied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(S4)	1	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences(S7)					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	1	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	2	-	-	-

PART VIII of the Act

OUTWORK - Sections 133 and 134

Nature of Work	No. of Out-workers in August List reqd. by Sec. 133 (1)(c)	No. of Cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel (making etc. cleaning & washing)	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other work	-	-	-	-	-	-

